

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 9-13 are pending in the present application, with Claims 9, 11 and 13 being independent. Claims 9-12 have been amended, and Claim 13 has been added.

Claims 9 and 11 were objected to. Applicant believes the objected to language has been addressed, and Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 9-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the combination of Katsuhisa, Oneda et al., and Maeda et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 9, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of (a) in a case of a color copy mode, compressing an input image using variable length compression, transferring the compressed input image to a memory, and initiating output of the compressed input image from the memory after the transfer terminates, and (b) in a case of a black-and-white copy mode, transferring an input image to the memory without compressing the input image, and initiating output of the transferred input image from the memory while the input image is being transferred to the memory. With these features, the timing to commence output of an image from a memory differs between a color copy mode and a black-and-white copy mode (i.e., in the color copy mode, transfer of a compressed input image to the memory must have terminated before output is initiated, while in the black-and-white copy mode the output is initiated while the uncompressed input image is still being transferred to the memory). Hence, image output can be initiated sooner in the black-and-white copy mode, since the transfer end time is predictable due to there being no compression. On the other hand, image output is deferred until transfer is complete in the color copy mode, to avoid any problems with the output, since the transfer end time may not be predictable due to the variable length compression.

Applicant submits that the cited art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of Claim 9. Katsuhisa discloses in paragraph [0009], for example, that

In a technique disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 9-102878, compression and expansion processing are performed for a color original, and non-compressed data is stored in a memory and readout processing is performed, for a monochrome original.

However, there is nothing in Katsuhisa to disclose or suggest variable length compression or that the timing to initiate output of an image from a memory (that is, after image transfer terminates or while an image is still being transferred to the memory) varies between a color and a black-and-white copy mode.

Applicant submits that the other cited art fails to remedy the deficiencies of Katsuhisa. Oneida et al. discloses variable length compression, but fails to disclose or suggest the claimed timing for initiating output of an image from memory. Maeda et al. discloses calculating an amount of data that should be preserved before printing begins, based on the amount of data inputted via scanning in each unit time and the amount of data that can be printed during each unit time. However, although Maeda et al. suggests initiating the output of data while the data is being transferred, Applicant submits that there is nothing in that reference to disclose or suggest initiating image output while an input image is being transferred to a memory, in a black-and-white copy mode, while initiating image output after the transfer of a compressed input image terminates, in a color copy mode.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention recited in Claim 9 is patentable over the art of record. Independent Claim 11 is an apparatus claim having features corresponding to those of Claim 9. Independent Claim 13 is a method claim similar to Claim 9, except that in the black-and-white copy mode, the input image is compressed using fixed length compression before being transferred to the memory. Applicant submits that Claims 11 and 13 are patentable for reasons similar to Claim 9.

Dependent Claims 10 and 12 are believed patentable for at least the same reasons as Claims 9 and 11 from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. L. Klock", is written over a horizontal line.

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